

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-4 and 6-17 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Okigami in view of Antziopoulos.

For the following reasons, the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. The rejection appears to be based on the Examiner's understanding of the cleaning apparatus 5 as determined solely from the specification on page 9, lines 5-12. The Examiner is directed to the specification at page 40, lines 9-23, and page 51, line 16 to page 52, line 19, wherein further description of the function and operation of the cleaning apparatus is provided. Such description is sufficient to support the language of claim 5. On page 40, for example, the specification describes the data format transmitted by the cleaning apparatus and the nature of the data formatter. On pages 51-52, moreover, the function of the cleaning apparatus is more fully illustrated, as it relates to the maintenance of the presently claimed parts-management method. The Examiner may also note that the claim is directed to a method, not to the physical apparatus itself. Since the specification clearly describes the methods employed by the cleaning apparatus, i.e., how it interacts with the invention, the language of claim 5 is fully supported by the written description of the invention. Therefore, the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 1-4 and 6-17 is respectfully traversed, as well. The first cited references shows a system for remotely monitoring a device or devices connected to an extranet (Okigami). The second reference (Antziopoulos) shows a devices with means for monitoring the intended life of a part in a copier system and measuring that against the actual usage of the part, to determine when the part should be replaced.

The references substantively differ from the present invention by failing to provides means for monitoring the actual life of a part, independent of the usage of such a part in particular copier system or apparatus. The present invention, with reference to claim 1, provides for first and second memories that store information relating to the usage of the parts in the copier and the total life history of a particular part. This includes not only the usage of the part since the time it has been

installed in the copier, but also includes information concerning the entire life of the part, i.e., for example if the part had already been used prior to installation in the system. This feature of the invention is described in the specification on page 3, lines 16-21. In particular, it is noted that the present invention, as claimed, allows that "the operation history of each part can be continuously managed by the management apparatus even in a case where each part has been used in a plurality of apparatus." This feature is not taught, disclosed, or suggested by the references.

Antziopoulos, for example, makes no mention of the initial life history of a part when it is installed in the copier. Most likely, Antziopoulos' device assumes that a "replacement part" is new at the time of installation. By contrast, the present invention allows for the identification of individual parts and maximizes efficiency by allowing for the recycle of parts that are removed from an apparatus prior to the expiration of their service life. For this reason, the rejection of claims 1-4 and 5-17 should be withdrawn.

All claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 325772019400.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 17, 2003

By: 

Wayne C. Jaeschke, Jr.
Registration No. 38,503
Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
Telephone: (703) 760-7756
Facsimile: (703) 760-7777